


The
Ridge Rambler

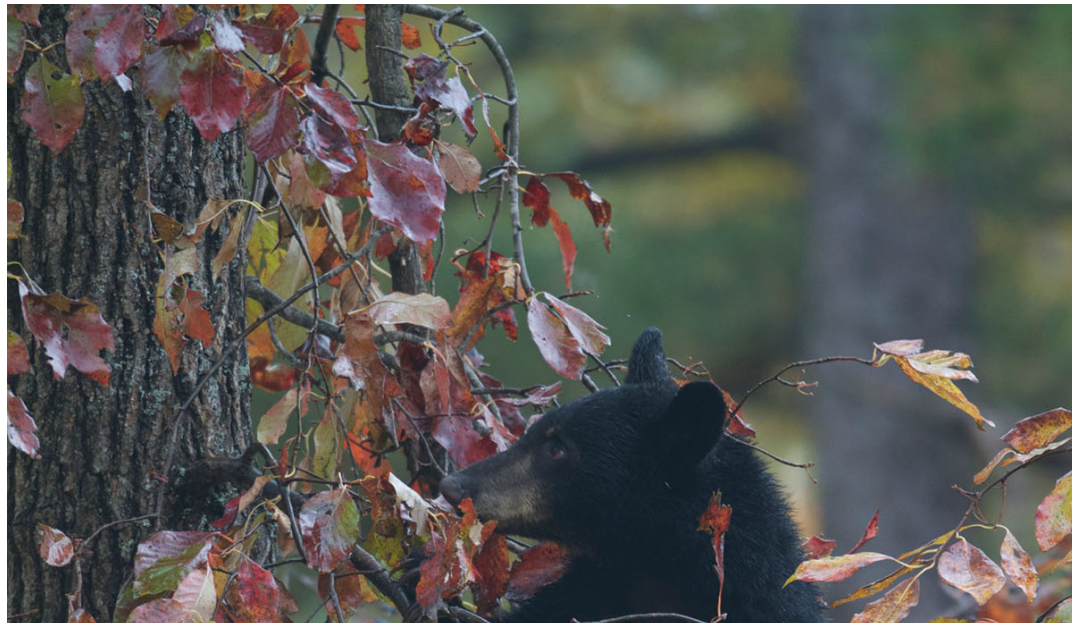




Photo provided by Keith Shuster

Saddle Ridge Fall Cookout-September 29th

September 29, 2019, was our annual Fall Cookout event. It was a great evening of good weather, great food, and great community fellowship. Thanks to all who attended! A special thank you to Connie Evans and the hospitality committee for making this event a wonderful success.



President's Message

Hello, and I hope everyone has had a happy Thanksgiving!

My first order of business is to introduce you to our newest Board member. New board member Paul Lazenby had to resign his position due to an unexpected increase in his responsibilities at work. We wish him all the best and hope that at some time in the future, he'll once again be able to consider board membership. Meanwhile, we are grateful and excited to have Keith Kennedy as our newest member. Keith will be taking over as chair of the equipment committee. He was elected unanimously by the board and we are looking forward to working with him. Welcome, Keith! You'll see Keith's contact information below.

We've had an incredibly busy fall in Saddle Ridge, as is very clear from all the news and photos in this issue of the Ridge Rambler. The fall cleanup was a huge success, with residents scattered all over the neighborhood and beyond clearing our roadsides to ready them for mowing, weeding the beds and cleaning our entrance area, picking up trash outside our gates, and generally preparing for fall and winter. If you looked at the signup sheet that morning, there were two full pages of names, and many of those lines were families, not individuals. Thank you so much to everyone who helped. It's great to live in a neighborhood where everyone is so involved and pulling together to make our little community the best it can be.

There's so much going on now, and so much more to come. We've already had our first snow (too soon, in my opinion!), our mail kiosk will soon be decorated for Christmas, and before we know it, we'll be in a new year with all the hope and promise it will bring. I hope your holidays are merry and bright, and that the good times you have become happy memories to enjoy for years to come!

Thanks for everything!

Janet

FALL CLEANUP AND FIREWISE DAY

The Fall cleanup and Firewise day was a terrific success. We had the most volunteers we have had in a long time and a lot was accomplished. We are so lucky to live in a place where so many people are willing to give of their time to make it a wonderful place to live.





Firewise Community in Good-Standing

The Saddle Ridge annual Firewise report was accepted on November 12, 2019. To remain a community in good-standing we needed to invest \$1,907.25. Community members reported \$28,348.53 in time invested in Firewise activities such as creating defensible space around homes and clean up around the community. ***Thank you to everyone!***

Firewise Grant for 2019-2020

Saddle Ridge received a \$3,300 grant for hazard mitigation and education. We plan to spend the \$500

education portion on the purchase of a Fire Danger Sign. The \$2,800 balance will be spent on bush hogging and the purchase of a come-a-long.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Reporting Update. The financial statements for the 1st Quarter of FY 2019 (July 1 to September 30) were sent November 1 to all owners for whom we have an email address. If you did not receive a copy, please contact us at saddleridgepoa@gmail.com and one will be sent to you. Collections of annual assessments are coming in at a good rate. Still, there are 24 members that haven't paid yet. The invoices were mailed on June 30 with a due date of July 31. Your account is delinquent if you don't pay within 60 days of the due date, or by September 30. If you haven't paid yet, please do so as soon as possible. Reminder letters will be sent in early January to the members that have not yet paid. Expenditures are approximately on budget, with a few areas running a bit over budget. However, there are still 7 months in the fiscal year, and we are reasonably certain that we will meet our revenue and expenditure goals.

Please remember: if you have any questions about the financial condition of the Association or other accounting matters related to Saddle Ridge, please contact us at the email address above.

The Wild Side of Saddle Ridge





Photo provided by Keith Shuster

I'll Do Anything for a Berry

By Roxanne Clapp

The bears are still out and about! And, boy, are they getting chubby! As the summer berries became scarce to non-existent, the bears on Overlook View had many acorns to dine on (crunchy!!), and then they took to the trees! Black gum trees seem

to be a November favorite. We saw them scurry up the trunk of our own on our security cameras. Sadly, the canopy of the tree is not within view on the camera, so we couldn't see them once they got up there. The Shusters, however, were able to capture them on camera in their black gum tree pictured throughout this newsletter. Thanks for sharing your awesome photos!!

The family of five have been very regular visitors as of late, mostly at night now, and Decker (the single bear) has made an appearance every now and then. I think with the family of five getting bigger, eating more, and taking up more room, Decker has been keeping busy elsewhere.



That feisty family of five have shown us a side of bears that I hadn't really considered before. They like to smell pretty! They rub themselves all over Leyland pines (just ask the LaValleys), bending them over and breaking the branches makes them smell ever so much better! Just before the snowfall mid-November, a curious bear rubbed its face all over our mum plant, pretty much putting an end to its seasonal beauty. Totally worth the \$5 we spent on the plant to see that happen though, and I think the plant will live anyway :) Here's a link to the video, in case you want to see how a bear puts on perfume: <https://roxc.box.com/v/bearputsonperfume>



Remember, our bears don't fully hibernate in the winter and will come out in search of food if the weather warms enough. Remain bear-aware! Don't leave pet food outside and **DON'T FEED THE BEARS** - they have plenty to eat in the wild, especially in our neighborhood! I'm not a bear expert, I just love watching them and learning more about them.

Learn more about living with bears at bearwise.org or check out educational programs at Appalachian Bear Rescue:

<https://appalachianbearrescue.org/programs/educational-programs/>

You can share your information and stories about the critters in your part of Saddle Ridge in the next issue of The Ridge Rambler!



Road Report

A lot of volunteer hours went into clearing fallen trees, branches, saplings, and other debris from the roadsides during October in preparation for mowing. Thank you to everyone who walked and cleared all 22 miles of roadsides! Frank Aldridge and Dave Glarner then mowed all the roadsides. Following that we made one round of blowing all the fallen leaves off the roads and will be doing another round or 2 before more grading. Many thanks to Jim Clinansmith, Dale Richardson and Steve Foster for hours spent making sure our equipment was up and running smoothly. This quarter's roadwork also included the installation of a new culvert under Walnut Flats by Lamar and the clearing of others. Reflectors were also installed on some of the steeper curves along Chilhowee.



A Friendly Reminder

As you know, the holiday season is upon us. With this season comes an increase in the number of packages left in our UPS/FedEx box. It is very important that you pick up your packages in a timely manner as it is easy for the box to be filled to capacity. To that end, many of you receive notifications from

third parties about your deliveries. Also, Smitty makes every effort to send you an email when he sees a package for you in the box. We provide this information to make sure you know the package has been delivered.

Welcome to Saddle Ridge

New property owners:

Brian & Melissa Dunlap, 2163 Waters End Road

Arin & Molly Noyes and daughter Zoe, 1802 Grouse Top Road

Brandy & Joel Rohrer, 2131 Sky Top Road



SR Facebook Group

The Saddle Ridge members [Facebook group page](#) continues to be a great source for information within our community. We regularly post messages, alerts, concerns, and needs to this page. Living in this rural community, we don't often see each other, especially during the winter months, so the Facebook page is a way to communicate timely news such as power outages, fire alerts, wildlife sightings, events coming up, lost pets, or even suspicious traffic.

Contact Mary Glarner at Mglarner@gmail.com, to be added to the group. Please remember, this page is strictly for people who own property in Saddle Ridge.

Contact your SRPOA Board:

Email: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com

Board members and committee chairs are listed below and also on the [Saddle Ridge website](#) - www.saddleridgepoa.com

President: Janet Kolarik | 865-805-0348

Vice President: Sue DuBois | 865-307-2532

Treasurer: Smitty (G. Robert Smith, Jr.) | 615-631-5836

Secretary: Judy Pearson | 865-982-5729

Board Members:

Alane Wyss | 865-977-1533

Connie Evans | 865-304-2267

Mary Glarner | 865-982-3432

Beth Koella | 865-705-0455

Keith Kennedy | 512-716-5059



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